

CLAIMS

- 1 1. A method comprising
2 receiving data packets at a communications node,
3 associating each of the received data packets with one of a
4 set of different service classes,
5 transmitting packets corresponding to the received data
6 packets to recipients, and
7 controlling the order in which packets are transmitted based
8 on the transmission rate and the service class of the packets.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 in which the transmitted packets
2 comprise physical layer packets.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 in which the rates of transmission
2 are controlled based on a time-division multiplexing algorithm.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1 in which the node comprises a radio
2 node of a communications protocol.
- 1 5. The method of claim 4 in which the communications
2 protocol comprises HDR.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1 in which the different classes of
2 service conform to a differentiated services architecture.

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1 15. The method of claim 13 in which the class level scheduling
2 is based on at least one of the following for each of the classes: a
3 configured minimum average forwarding rate percentage for the

1 22. The method of claim 13 in which the class level scheduling
2 selects a class from among a subset of the classes.

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1 ~~23.~~ The members of the subset of classes are determined by
2 pre-assigned schedule times.

1 24. The method of claim 13 in which the recipient level
2 scheduling selects a recipient from among a subset of the
3 recipients.

1 ~~25.~~ The members of the subset of recipients are determined by
2 pre-assigned schedule times.

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1 ~~26.~~ Apparatus comprising
2 a communications node configured to receive data packets,
3 associate each of the received data packets with one of a set of
4 different service classes, transmit packets corresponding to the
5 received data packets to recipients, and control the order in which
6 packets are transmitted based on the transmission rate and the
7 service class of the packets.

1 ~~27.~~ A method comprising
2 receiving from a network operator values representing
3 minimum average forwarding rate percentages for each of more
4 than one distinct classes of service associated with transmission of
5 packets from a radio node of a network to recipients, and

6 scheduling packets for transmission among the different
7 classes based on the received values.

[illegible]